

PRESS RELEASE FROM U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

February 22, 2011

The largest Congressional Delegation ever to visit New Zealand was in Christchurch to attend the U.S. – New Zealand Partnership Forum hours before the devastating earthquake hit the city and surrounding Canterbury region. The bipartisan delegation is led by Chairman Donald Manzullo of the Subcommittee on Asia-Pacific, House Foreign Affairs Committee, and also includes Representatives Dan Lungren, Kevin Brady, Eni Faleomavaega, Gregory Meeks, Joe Crowley, Rick Larsen, and Gregorio Sablan.

Mr. Manzullo said the following:

“The thoughts and prayers of our delegation, and the American people we represent, are with the people of Christchurch, the Canterbury region and all of New Zealand on the occasion of this devastating tragedy. Having experienced received the warm reception of the people of Christchurch at the Partnership Forum only hours before the earthquake struck makes this disaster all the more personal and poignant. The recently signed Wellington Declaration states: *We recall the long history of shared United States and New Zealand sacrifice in battle.* Your American friends extend profound condolences and sympathy to the victims of this tragedy and to their families and friends.